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## **Walmart Commits \$2 Billion to Help End Hunger in the U.S.**

*Oregon Families to Benefit from Walmart's Commitment of More than  
1 Billion Meals in Response to Growing Hunger Need*

Portland, Ore., May 12, 2010 - Walmart and the Walmart Foundation announced a \$2 billion cash and in-kind commitment today, stepping up efforts to help end hunger in America, including 1.8 million of donated meals to food banks across Oregon.

The new initiative, "Fighting Hunger Together," includes four key components:

- Donating more than 1.1 billion pounds of food from Walmart stores, distribution centers and Sam's Club locations, valued at \$1.75 billion. Benefiting food banks in Oregon include Oregon Food Bank and their network of 935 hunger relief agencies, including Linn-Benton Food Share, FOOD for Lane County and Josephine County Food Bank.
- Grants totaling \$250 million to support hunger relief organizations at the national, state and local levels;
- Mobilizing Walmart associates and customers. For example, Walmart's logistics team will lend their expertise to help food banks become more efficient in their operations; and
- Collaboration with government, food manufacturers and other corporations that are fighting hunger to increase impact and reach a greater number of families in need.

According to a November 2009 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report, hunger rates in the U.S. are the highest since 1995 with nearly 15 percent of households lacking access to an adequate supply of nutritious food. Walmart expects its cash and in-kind gifts of fresh produce, meat, dairy and other foods to provide more than 1 billion meals to these needy families.

"Increasingly, we see opportunities to use our scale and reach to solve challenges in our communities. This is one of those times," said Eduardo Castro-Wright, Walmart's vice chairman. "By working together, we believe we can reach a day where no individual in this country has to go to bed hungry or worry if there will be food to put on the table tomorrow."

Castro-Wright announced the company's plans on Capitol Hill today, joined by USDA Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon; Senate Hunger Caucus Co-Chairwoman Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark.; House Hunger Caucus Co-Chairmen Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.; Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo.; Rep. John Boozman, R-Ark.; and Terry Shannon,

president and CEO of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance in Phoenix - the first food bank in the U.S.

"When private businesses step up to help fight problems affecting all of us, it creates a public-private partnership that will bring together more people to fight the problem of hunger in Oregon," said Oregon House Speaker Dave Hunt (D-Clackamas County). "With so many people on food stamps or using the services of the Oregon Food Bank, all of us are grateful when private businesses are willing to step up and be a part of the solution."

Today, the Walmart Foundation announced the first grants as part of this commitment:

- Donations totaling \$8 million will help U.S. food banks improve capacity. This includes \$6 million to purchase 60 refrigerated trucks for Feeding America food banks. Added to the 69 previously donated by Walmart, the trucks will help ensure that each food bank can safely transport donations from Walmart stores and other grocers.
- Donations totaling \$10 million will help ensure that children across the U.S. are fed healthy meals during the school year and summer months. For example, \$2 million will support the National Parks and Recreation Association's summer feeding program and provide 2 million meals for U.S. children.

These and other efforts are designed to help improve the efficiency of the U.S. food bank system, make nutritious food more accessible and provide long-term solutions to eradicating hunger.

"Walmart is one of Oregon Food Bank's most important partners, through food and monetary donations, through employee volunteerism, and by engaging local communities in food drives. Walmart has donated 2.6 million pounds of healthy perishable food through OFB's Fresh Alliance program in just 15 months. These food pounds represent the equivalent of 52,000 emergency food boxes that feed a family of 4 for 3-4 days," said Rachel Bristol, CEO, Oregon Food Bank.

Walmart will help each of its 1.4 million U.S. associates and the 140 million customers who shop its stores every week find opportunities to support food banks, senior meal delivery programs and other hunger relief organizations in their communities. More details on how customers can get involved will be announced this summer.

Last year, when high levels of unemployment placed greater demands on U.S. food banks, Walmart doubled its food donations, providing 81 million more pounds of food than the prior year. The company's contributions made up 45 percent of donations from retailers to Feeding America food banks. The company

also helped to feed more than 93,000 children in 2009 through a donation to the Boys and Girls Club of America's summer feeding program.

"Distribution of emergency food and the number of people served through the Oregon Food Bank Network has reached historic high levels. In an average month, more than 240,000 people eat meals from an emergency food box in Oregon and Clark County, Wash. Worse yet, close to 40 percent are children. And for children, hunger isn't merely uncomfortable, it's dangerous. It affects their development, their ability to learn and their short and long-term growth," continued Bristol.

In 2008, Walmart committed \$250,000 to the Oregon Food Bank network and participates in the continuous Fresh Alliance food recovery program, donating close-dated meat, dairy and produce that would have otherwise been destroyed, every day. This program rescued and delivered 750,000 pounds of food from the shelves of our Oregon Walmart stores to the tables of struggling families and individuals since the beginning 2009. The Nyssa Community Food Pantry, one of many recipients, counts 5,762 pounds of food on their tables through these efforts.

For more information, including a state-by-state list of Walmart's planned food donations over the next five years or to find local volunteer opportunities, visit [www.walmartgiving.com](http://www.walmartgiving.com) <<http://www.walmartgiving.com>> .

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#### **About Philanthropy at Walmart**

*Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).*